

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 03038 01 OF 02 090718Z

16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 SAB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 EUR-12

SAJ-01 AF-06 OES-03 /103 W

----- 013131

R 090642Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4208

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DAMASCUS 3038

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SY

SUBJ: POLICY STATEMENT BY SYRIAN BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND

REF: DAMASCUS 2990

1. SUMMARY: BAATH PARTY'S NATIONAL COMMAND (BPNC) EARLY AUGUST STATEMENT TOOK PREDICTABLY HARDLINE STAND ON ARAB/ ISRAEL PEACE PROSPECTS, RESTATING FAMILIAR SYRIAN POSITION ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, TO NATIONAL INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY, ADDING THAT STRUGGLE WOULD THEN CONTINUE TO LIBERATE REST OF PALESTINE. IT ALSO MENTIONED DECISION TO SPREAD NATIONAL SOCIALIST IDEOLOGY THROUGHOUT ARAB HOMELAND, SHARPLY ATTACKED IRAQ, SUPPORTED ERITREAN STRUGGLE, AND CALLED FOR CLOSER RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY USSR, AS WELL AS WITH NON-ALIGNED AND EC-9 TO WIN THEIR SUPPORT FOR ARAB STRUGGLE. NO MENTION OF US IN STATEMENT. IN ITS ONLY STRIKING DEPARTURE FROM EARLIER BPNC FORMULATIONS, STATEMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 03038 01 OF 02 090718Z

WELCOMED FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGY IN DEVELOPING

SYRIA. END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN BPNC RELEASED AUGUST 4 LENGTHY STATEMENT SUMMING UP VIEWS OF 12TH CONGRESS OF SYRIAN ARAB SOCIALIST BAATH PARTY. (FULL TEXT AVAILABLE FBIS AMMAN 041734Z AUG.) STATEMENT WALLOWED IN JARGON BELOVED BY BAATHI IDEOLOGUES ("STRUGGLING MARCH," "PHASED OBJECTIVE OF THE ARAB STRUGGLE," ETC.). WARNED THAT FORCES HOSTILE TO ARAB NATIONAL CAUSE STILL SEEK LIQUIDATE GAINS OF OCTOBER WAR THROUGH DIVIDING ARABS. CONGRESS RESOLVED GUARANTEE NATIONAL IDEOLOGICAL UNITY THROUGH "CENTRALIZED DEMOCRACY" AND EXPANDED POPULAR BASE FOR PARTY. BPNC'S EVANGELICAL ORIGINS RECEIVED FLEETING MENTION IN COMMENT THAT CONGRESS TOOK "NECESSARY DECISIONS TO SPREAD NATIONAL SOCIALIST IDEOLOGY THROUGHOUT ARAB HOMELAND.

3. ISRAEL: BULK OF STATEMENT FOCUSED ON WAYS TO CONFRONT ISRAEL THROUGH WEAKENING ITS ABILITY TO DRAW ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT THROUGHOUT WORLD. THERE WERE NO INNOVATIONS IN BPNC POSITION RE 1967 OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (ALL MUST BE RETURNED) AND SECURING OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS (ESTABLISH "NATIONAL INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY ON PALESTINIAN LAND TO BE LIBERATED, AND CONTINUE STRUGGLE TO LIBERATE REST OF PALESTINIAN HOMELAND.")

4. PEACE: WIRE SERVICES HAVE HEADLINED CONGRESS STATEMENT THAT IT REJECTED PEACE AND RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL. TEXT DOES REJECT PEACE IN TERMS OF FULL AND NORMAL RELATIONS (ARABIC-"SULH"), BUT IS SILENT ON ACCEPTABILITY OF STATE OF PEACE (ARABIC-"SALAAM").

5. BPNC, AS IF NOTING ANEMIA OF FEDERATION OF ARAB REPUBLICS (FAR) (SYRIA, EGYPT, LIBYA), STATES FAR NEEDS "ENRICHED CONTENT" AND MUST AVOID NEGATIVE ASPECTS AND EXCESSES THAT HAVE APPEARED SINCE ITS FORMATION. STATEMENT ALSO APPLAUDS ERITREAN STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION AND REAFFIRMS ARABISM OF GULF.

6. IRAQ IS ONLY ARAB COUNTRY SINGLED OUT FOR CRITICISM AND ONLY SUBJECT ON WHICH BPNC STATEMENT WAXES THE LEAST CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 03038 01 OF 02 090718Z

BIT ELOQUENT AS IT DECRIES BAGHDAD'S "NON-REGIONAL, OPPORTUNISTIC STANDS INCLUDING SHOUTING ITS BRILLIANT SLOGANS."

7. SOVIET UNION LEADS SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WITH WHICH ARAB WORLD IS CALLED TO CONSOLIDATE ITS COOPERATION. US DOES NOT FIT INTO ANY CATEGORY OF STATES WHICH ARAB WORLD MUST DEVELOP RELATIONS AND STATEMENT IN FACT IS

ABSOLUTELY SILENT RE US. GIVEN ANTI-US RHETORIC CHARACTERISTIC OF FORMER CONGRESSES SILENCE CAN BE VIEWED AS ALMOST A BACK HANDED COMPLIMENT.

8. ECONOMIC POLICY: ONLY REAL BREAK WITH PAST IS SECTION OF STATEMENT CARRYING CONGRESS ENDORSEMENT OF SARG'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND POLICIES. CENTRAL TO THIS SECTION IS FLAT APPROVAL OF USING "ARAB AND FOREIGN CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY" TO DEVELOP SYRIA. SYRIAN PRIVATE SECTOR IS NOT MENTIONED; CONSISTENT WITH BAATHI RECORD, STRESS IS ON STRENGTHENING PUBLIC AND COOPERATIVE SECTORS IN ALL ECONOMIC FIELDS.

9. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED CONGRESS PROCEEDINGS AND RESULTS WITH KEY PARTY LEADER DEPPRIMIN HAYDAR AUGUST 7. HAYDAR LISTED FOLLOWING INNOVATIONS ADOPTED BY 12TH CONGRESS.

A. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF NEW NATIONAL COMMAND LEADERSHIP (REFTEL). THIS BREAK WITH TRADITION MEANS THAT NEW NATIONAL COMMAND MEMBERS NEED NOT HIDE COYLY BEHIND PSEUDONYMS AS THEY RECEIVE PETITIONERS.

B. ELECTION OF NEW LEADERSHIP WAS MADE BY "ACCLAMATION ON BASIS OF MERIT IN THAT CONGRESS APPROVED PREPARED LIST OF NAMES" (SIC).

C. FORMER CONGRESS WAS FIRST TO COMPLETE ITS FULL TERM OF OFFICE. TWELFTH CONGRESS WAS FIRST TO BE HELD ON SCHEDULE. (EARLIER SESSIONS WERE OFTEN POSTPONED IN ORDER TO PATCH UP INTRA-PARTY FIGHTS.) NEW STABILITY IN SYRIAN BAATHI POLITICS MEANT THAT 12TH CONGRESS WAS ABLE TO DEVOTE ITSELF TO ISSUES OTHER THAN INTRA-PARTY DISPUTES.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 03038 02 OF 02 090723Z

16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 SAB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 EUR-12

SAJ-01 AF-06 OES-03 /103 W

----- 013236

R 090642Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4209
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DAMASCUS 3038

D. TWELFTH CONGRESS AGREED THAT NEXT SUCH REUNION
WOULD NOT BE HELD AT FIXED DATE IN FUTURE BUT WOULD BE
HELD SUBJECT TO CALL BY BPNC OR BY ONE-THIRD OF CONGRESS
MEMBERSHIP. THIS CONTRASTS WITH FORMER REQUIREMENT FOR
BIENNIAL MEETINGS.

E. HAYDAR CONCURRED THAT STATEMENT'S APPROVAL OF USING
FOREIGN CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY WAS SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE.
NOTED BPNC LEADERSHIP FOR PAST YEAR HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTING
THIS POLICY, PARTICULARLY IN FIELD OF OIL EXPLORATION, AND
HAD INSISTED THAT 12TH CONGRESS ENDORSE THIS NEW APPROACH.

10. COMMENT: HAYDAR'S LIST OF INNOVATIONS CAN BE READ
JUST AS PROOF OF INCREASED CONTROL OF PARTY'S MECHANISMS
BY ASAD AND HIS IMMEDIATE CIRCLE OF LOYALISTS. HOWEVER, IT
WOULD BE A DISTORTION TO VIEW THE BAATH NATIONAL AND
REGIONAL COMMANDS AS MERE CREATURES OF THE PRESIDENT. WHILE
ASAD DID ARROGANTLY DISREGARD IMPLICATIONS OF REGIONAL
PARTY CONGRESS ELECTION LAST MARCH/APRIL WHICH UNSEATED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 03038 02 OF 02 090723Z

HIS PRIME MINISTER AND ANOTHER PRESIDENTIAL FAVORITE FROM
COMMAND MEMBERSHIP, BOTH PARTY GATHERINGS PROBABLY SERVE
TO LIMIT PRESIDENT'S MANEUVERABILITY AT LEAST TO SOME
DEGREE. IT MAY WELL BE THAT VAGUE PERIODIC COMMENTS TO US
BY PRESIDENT AND FONMIN KHADDAM ABOUT THE PRESSURES OF
PUBLIC OPINION ON THEM MAY BE REFERENCE TO THE PRESSURES
GENERATED BY THESE TWO BODIES.

11. WE HAVE HEAD A FEW SYRIANS CRITICIZE BPNC STATEMENT
FOR BEING HEARDLINE AND STERILE IN ITS AVOIDANCE OF ANY HINT
THAT SYRIAN LEADERSHIP IS PREPARED TO BEGIN PROCESS OF
REEDUCATING SYRIAN AND MILITANT ARAB OPINION RE COMPROMISES
WHICH ACHIEVEMENT OF STATE OF PEACE IN AREA WILL REQUIRE.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT FULLY REFLECT
COMPLEXITIES OF SYRIAN POLICIES OF THE MID-70'S DURING
WHICH SYRIA UNDER ASAD'S LEADERSHIP HAS UNDERGONE A STEADY
OPENING TO THE WESTERN WORLD, INCLUDING AND PERHAPS

PREEMINENTLY TO THE US. ONE SIGN OF HOW FAR THIS PROCESS HAS
GONE IS SEEN IN BPNC STAMP OF APPROVAL RE USING "FOREIGN
CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY." THIS MUST BE READ AS APPLYING TO
THE WEST SINCE SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY
HAVE LONG BEEN IN USE HERE. THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT EVOLUTION
FOR BAATH IDEOLOGUES WHO DURING THE SIXTIES HAD SO COMPLETELY
TURNED THEIR BACKS ON WEST.
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC03038
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750865/aaaacfhfhn.tel
Line Count: 231
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 DAMASCUS 2990
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLICY STATEMENT BY SYRIAN BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND
TAGS: PINT, SY
To: SECSTATE WASHDC AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO TEL AVIV USUN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006